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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/570,559	03/03/2006	Akitoshi Mori	39858	9963
53054 7590 10/03/2008 PEARNE & GORDON LLP 1801 EAST 9TH STREET SUITE 1200 CLEVELAND, OH 44114-3108				
EXAMINER JAMAL, ALEXANDER				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2614				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
10/03/2008		ELECTRONIC		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

patdocket@peame.com  
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# Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/570,559

**Applicant(s)**

MORI ET AL.

**Examiner**

ALEXANDER JAMAL

**Art Unit**

2614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 March 2006.  
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.  
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.  
7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 May 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/CIS)  
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application  
6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Specification*

1. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112*

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. **Claim 2** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as based on a disclosure which is not enabling. The geographic shape of the displayed contents being determined to correspond to operable directions on the display unit critical or essential to the practice of the invention, but not included in the claim(s) is not enabled by the disclosure. See *In re Mayhew*, 527 F.2d 1229, 188 USPQ 356 (CCPA 1976).

It is not clear what problem applicant is solving with the claimed invention. The claim states to design a display in order to properly display the menu items which are going to be used on said display. Applicant's background section states that there is a known problem in phone that the operation key used to navigate the menu items is restricted (bottom of page 3 of spec.) This contradicts what is stated on the bottom of

page 1 of the spec, that known prior art phone uses buttons with 4 directions used to navigate to areas on the phone display are 'restricted'.

It is not clear how the prior art buttons are 'restricted' and further, it is not clear specifically how applicant enabling one to design the geometrical shape of the menu to fit the useable directions of the display is any different than designing a menu to work within a predefined system. For the purpose of examination, the examiner assumes applicant is claiming the very obvious step of designing a menu to work with the known parameters of the system which it is being designed to work on. Any person skilled in the art would know to design the menus to be completely accessible on the system for which they are going to be used.

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. **Claims 11,12,13,14,15**, rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

As per **claims 11,12**, the claims recite a set of buttons that are accessible by a single thumb motion and that have enough clearance to be operated independently. It is not clear what defines the thumb motion, or what defines enough clearance in order to be operated independently. For the purpose of examination, the examiner assumes the motion of a thumb and button clearances are obvious and well known design considerations for any mobile telephone.

As per **claim 13**, it is not clear exactly what an 'operating load' for each button would comprise. For the purpose of examination, the examiner assumes that any button that may be actuated independently will have a different 'operating load' as it is coupled to a different point in the system.

As per **claims 14,15**, it is not clear how the buttons could be coupled to the same elastic body and still be able to rotate. For the purpose of examination, the examiner assumes the phone comprises an elastic component.

Appropriate correction/clarification is requested.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. **Claims 1-6,11-13,16-19** rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yang (US 20040121816 A1), and further in view of Silverstone (4185281).

As per **claim 1**, Yang discloses a cell phone with a center button that comprises 9 other directional buttons used to navigate the phone interface via a display (inherently requires a display and operating unit). The overall system comprises a controlling unit and operating unit to perform the disclosed functions, including navigating, or changing

the display based on the button input (sensed result). A cell phone has a keypad area that can be covered by the average human hand. However, the system does not specify that the operating unit detects an operation direction and speed in order to interact with the phone interface (abstract).

Silverstone teaches that concentric selecting wheels may be used in a data device to provide various navigating functions, including 'horizontal' and 'vertical' interaction with the data display (fig. 1). Silverstone teaches that this provides ease of use and convenient 'one-handed' operation (Col 1 lines 1-40). The system inherently comprises an operating unit that detects the speed and direction of the dials in order to control the hardware. Each measurable turn of the dial will produce a change in the selected data on the display. The selected data will change at the same speed (detected speed) of the dial turning. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of this application that any number of known navigation types could be designed to provide convenient ease of use and one hand operation, including a center button and concentric dials.

As per **claim 2**, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to design the menu interface to be completely accessible in the display of the device in which it was going to be used.

As per **claims 3,4,6,17,19**, they are rejected as per the claim 1 rejection.

As per **claim 5**, the button/dial interface will act to interface with any particular menu application that is running on the cell phone. The button/dials will 'switch' to interact with the currently displayed menu or application.

As per **claims 11** button presses and dial actuations sense pressure.

As per **claim 12**, it would have been obvious to give the buttons enough clearance to be individually actuated as intended.

As per **claim 13**, each button is coupled to a different point in the circuit (has a different operating load).

As per **claims 16, 18**, it would have been obvious that arbitrary button shapes and materials (including differing shapes/materials, known shapes concave/convex and materials ) could be used as a matter of design choice.

8. **Claims 7** rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yang (US 20040121816 A1) in view of Silverstone (4185281) as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Itoh (US 20020015102 A1).

As per **claim 7**, Yang in view of Silverstone discloses a mobile phone with various buttons and concentric jog-dials, but do not specify every function possible by the dials in terms of a specific application (such as zooming). Itoh discloses a cellphone with a jog-dial where the dial controls the zooming for a picture application in the phone (para. 44).

9. **Claims 9,10**, rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yang (US 20040121816 A1) in view of Silverstone (4185281) as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Nokia (EP 463856 A).

As per **claims 9,10**, Yang and Silverstone disclose the concentric dials but do not disclose how each turn (speed and direction) of the dial are determined.

Nokia teaches a means to digitally monitor (via predetermined times) the speed and direction (a circular tracing operation) of a dial in a cellphone (abstract). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of this application to implement a speed and direction sensing system of Nokia in order to interact with the menu/application items on the display.

10. **Claims 14-15** rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yang (US 20040121816 A1) in view of Silverstone (4185281) as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Oono et al. (EP 463856 A).

As per **claims 14-15**, Yang and Silverstone disclose the buttons but do not disclose every single component associated with the buttons.

Oono teaches to use a rubber (elastic, inherently buffering) substrate to support and hold the buttons and keys on a keyboard in place. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of this application to implement a rubber substrate to hold the buttons and keys of the phone keyboard in place.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alexander Jamal whose telephone number is 571-272-7498. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9AM-6PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curtis A Kuntz can be reached on 571-272-7499. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are **571-273-8300** for regular communications and **571-273-8300** for After Final communications.

/Alexander Jamal/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2614

Examiner Alexander Jamal

October 2, 2008